



International
Presentations of
Music & Dance

THE UNIVERSITY MUSICAL SOCIETY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Woody Herman
AND THE THUNDERING HERD

WITH SPECIAL GUEST STAR

Richard Stoltzman

FRIDAY EVENING, OCTOBER 3, 1986, AT 8:00
POWER CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS
ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

Following the tradition of the Big Bands, the program
is decided on rather spur-of-the-moment
and pieces will be announced from the stage.

The legendary Woody Herman and the Thundering Herd
team up with Grammy Award-winning clarinetist Richard Stoltzman
in an evening of virtuosic renditions of old jazz standards
and original tunes written especially for them.

Mr. Stoltzman will perform Igor Stravinsky's *Ebony Concerto*,
a piece for swing band and clarinet composed specially for Woody,
who premièred it in Carnegie Hall on March 25, 1946.

WOODY HERMAN — *clarinet, soprano and alto sax, vocals*
RICHARD STOLTZMAN, *clarinet*

Trumpets: Roger Ingram, Larry Gillespie, Mark Lewis, Ron Stout, Bill Byrne
Trombones: John Fedchock, Paul McKee, Ken Kugler
Saxophones: Frank Tiberi, Dave Riekenberg, Jerry Pinter, Mike Brignola
Alto sax: Keith Karabell; *Piano:* Joel Weiskopf; *Double bass:* Dave Carpenter
French horn: Daniel Fackler; *Harp:* Barbara Harig; *Drums:* Dave Hardman

The Musical Society gratefully acknowledges the generosity of Ford Motor Company Fund for underwriting the costs of this house program.

New UMS 1986-87 Season Events Calendar

A convenient and attractive month-by-month wall calendar for planning cultural and other important events — on sale in the lobby for \$4, or at Burton Tower during office hours.

About the Artists

Woodrow Charles Herman, one of the true legends of jazz and popular music, this year celebrates his 50th anniversary as a bandleader. Woody was born 73 years ago in Milwaukee, and he entered show business at the age of eight as a child prodigy clarinet player and tap dancer. Since then, his life has been devoted to music and, as a result, he has been a major influence on contemporary jazz music throughout the world.

After playing in several name bands as a saxophone player, clarinetist, and singer, he formed his own band in 1936, and they made their debut at the Roseland Ballroom in Brooklyn. A few months later they made the big time — the Roseland in Manhattan. Early favorites of the “Band That Played the Blues,” as it was called, were “Blues on Parade,” “Blue Prelude,” and “Blue Flame,” Woody’s familiar theme song. His biggest hit of all, however, was “Woodchoppers Ball,” still one of the most requested pieces in the Herd repertoire. Recording with Decca during this period, he also performed with important artists such as Bing Crosby and The Andrew Sisters. Gradually, through the 1940s, the band shifted from the blues and semi-Dixieland to the more sophisticated styles of Jimmie Lunceford and Duke Ellington, Woody’s all-time hero and inspiration. By 1945, when critic George T. Simon dubbed it “The Thundering Herd,” it was one of the most popular bands of the time, winning jazz polls everywhere. Woody had his own radio show, appeared in films, and continued to record such hits as “Laura,” a third million-selling record. Igor Stravinsky was so impressed with Woody’s musical ideas that he wrote his only piece for jazz orchestra, *Ebony Concerto*, which Woody premiered at the Herd’s famous 1946 Carnegie Hall concert.

Since the big band heyday of the 1940s, about one-third of Woody’s dates are at high schools and colleges, where, in addition to evening concerts, the Herd gives clinics and seminars during the day. Thanks in part to Woody Herman and other big band leaders, there are now some 35,000 stage bands in this country, involving over 500,000 student musicians. Since 1980, big bands are in greater demand than they’ve been in over thirty years, partly from Woody’s involvement in the schools and partly the result of the “disco culture,” people’s desire to dance.

Woody’s contemporary spirit is clearly visible in the music he has recorded and frequently performs — arrangements of music by Chick Corea, Stevie Wonder, Carole King, Chuck Mangione, Frank Zappa, and Leon Russell, to name a few. A recent recording includes Chick Corea’s “Suite for Hot Band,” written and arranged specially for Woody and the Herd. Another recording — his 40th Anniversary Concert at Carnegie Hall — was nominated for a Grammy, and “Giant Steps” and “The Thundering Herd” both won successive Grammy Awards. Woody’s youthful orientation is also reflected in the members of the Herd, historically comprised of some of the most talented young musicians in the country.

The bandleader has been featured on six PBS television specials, among them “The Big Band Bash” and a ninety-minute documentary entitled “Woody.” In addition, he was featured twice on PBS-Radio’s popular “Jazz Alive” series, once live from Carnegie Hall, and more recently live from Washington’s Smithsonian Institution. Each year, Woody and the Herd spend a few months touring overseas, with performances in Europe, Poland, and Africa.

Richard Stoltzman has re-defined the word “versatile,” captivating critics and audiences alike in his performances of all genres of music: as soloist with more than a hundred orchestras, as a recitalist and chamber music performer, and as an innovative jazz artist. In addition to performing with major North American orchestras, he has been featured in Europe with the London Symphony, the English and Scottish Chamber Orchestras, and the Lucerne Festival Strings. He presented the first clarinet recitals in the histories of both the Hollywood Bowl and Carnegie Hall, and in 1986 he became the first wind player to be awarded the prestigious Avery Fisher Prize, joining such other eminent recipients as Murray Perahia and Yo-Yo Ma. Stoltzman recently gave the world premiere of “New York Counterpoint,” written for him by Steve Reich, and he appeared in Japan at the Tokyo Music Joy Festival with Keith Jarrett, Chick Corea, and Eddie Gomez. A highlight of last season was his debut with the Boston Pops in a gala concert with John Williams and blues singer Joe Williams to open the second-century season of the Pops. As an exclusive RCA recording artist, Stoltzman has a discography numbering over eighteen releases, including a Grammy Award for the Brahms Sonatas with Richard Goode. His latest recording, “Begin Sweet World” — a crossover album of jazz tunes, original compositions by his long-time colleague Bill Douglas, and music of Debussy, Fauré, and Bach — was an immediate best-seller and inspired a follow-up album to be released later this year.

This season he is touring with Woody Herman and the Herd, performing at major colleges across the country, at Carnegie Hall, Boston’s Symphony Hall, Chicago’s Orchestra Hall, and at a National Young Audiences benefit in New York, the latter a memorial to Benny Goodman. In addition, he performs at festivals in Italy, Germany, and Denmark, will be heard in recitals and with orchestras across the United States, and tour with the chamber ensemble TASHI. He will be a featured artist in “Vienna 1900,” a series of concerts presented by the 92nd Street “Y” in conjunction with the acclaimed exhibition at the Museum of Modern Art.

Stoltzman was born in Omaha in 1942 and graduated from Ohio Street University with a double major in music and mathematics. He earned his master of music degree at Yale University and was a doctoral candidate at Columbia. A ten-year participant at the Marlboro Music Festival, he gained extensive chamber music experience and, through musical relationships established there, became a founding member of TASHI in 1973. Perhaps a lesser-known fact about the artist involves his culinary skills: he is a master pastry chef who studied at the Cordon Bleu in London.

Woody Herman is making his first Ann Arbor appearance under Musical Society auspices; Richard Stoltzman has performed here with TASHI in 1981 and with Bill Douglas in 1984.

UNIVERSITY MUSICAL SOCIETY

Burton Memorial Tower, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48109-1270

Telephone: (313) 764-2538